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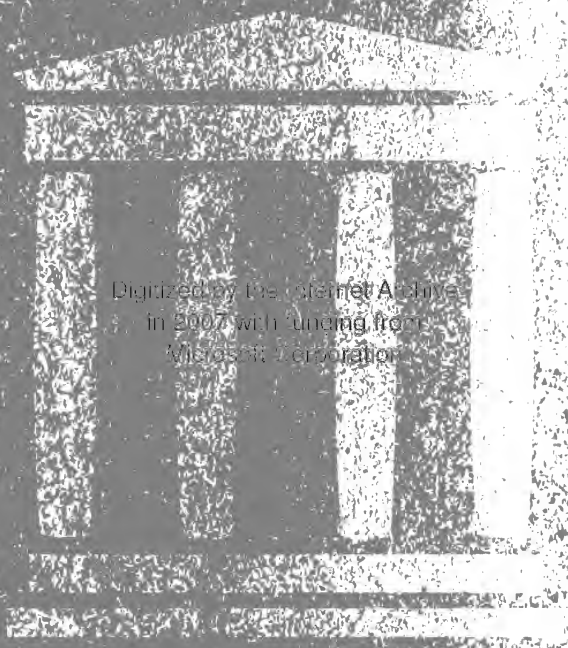
THEIR HISTORY & DEVELOPMENT,

Being a Review of the Volunteer Movement
in Devon.

BY
LIEUT.-COL. AMERY.

Re-printed from the
Totnes Times and Western Guardian,
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Published by Mortimer Bros., Totnes.



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THE HAYTOR VOLUNTEERS.

At the Coffee Tavern Hall, Totnes, on Wednesday evening, March 21st, 1888, Lieutenant-Colonel Amery, of Ashburton, delivered an interesting lecture on "The Haytor Volunteers—their formation and development."

CAPTAIN WINDEATT presided over a good audience, and the lecture was much appreciated, representations being also given of the old uniforms worn by the Volunteers and the old Devonshire Regiment in times gone by.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL AMERY commenced his remarks by saying that nature has provided every animal with some means of self-defence, and the preservation of life in an individual may at any time depend on its ability to adapt this power to resist the danger of the moment. The same holds good for nations and communities whose very existence may at times depend on their power of combination and the application they can make of every means of resistance to an external foe. In the earlier ages of mankind the implements of agriculture, and the chase, which provided them sustenance and comforts in peace, became their weapons in war, when the most skilful hunter proved the most formidable champion. But as the arts of peace became developed on the one side, and those of war on the other, the implements and training of the one became unsuited and obsolete for the other; men then continued to learn both in order to fulfil their two-fold duty of protecting their homes, and of subduing the land for the sustenance and comfort of the race. The middle ages saw war made a pro-

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fession by the great, and those whose wealth allowed them to obtain arms and armour, which rendered them invincible to non-professional soldiers. From the days of the Roman Legions to the Battle of Crecy infantry was of little or no importance in war, and it was the use made of the English long bow in that famous field, which hereafter placed the power of a nation in the hands of the middle classes, provided they could use with precision a projectile capable of piercing the armour of a man-at-arms or those of his horse, although they might know little or nothing of the use of other arms. The English have always been ready to come forward for the defence of their country, and the general arming at the time of the Spanish Armada, the Tercentenary of which will shortly be celebrated in our midst, showed how one and all could turn out in time of danger, each prepared to use that weapon with which he might be familiar. Should a similar occasion unfortunately occur a like spirit would be exhibited, but the question arises what weapon of any real use do we, as a people, know how to wield with effect. On the answer to this simple question hangs the whole preamble of the Volunteer movement of the present day. From the Saxon times the law esteems every man eligible for a soldier for defensive purposes, unless incapacitated by age or physical weakness, and his liability to be drawn in the Militia ballot of his Shire, for training in arms is remitted by Parliament yearly, for one year only, on its being shewn that a sufficient number of men have come forward voluntarily for the service. The Volunteer movement offers an opportunity for persons to become efficient in the use of the best projectile weapon of the age at their own leisure, and in their own neighbourhood, and so in time of peace to be trained with the least inconvenience, or I may say with the most pleasure to themselves in those simple military movements which will render them of real value for the defence of the country in time of peril. No history of a county or district is complete that omits to record the part its inhabitants have taken in any great national movements of the past, or the position it is prepared to take in the present. I will, therefore, ask you to follow me while I endeavour to trace the Volunteer movement to the present time, and connect the past with "The

Haytor Volunteer Battalion of the Devon Regiment," as represented by your local Company of that Battalion. Plymouth and its immediate neighbourhood is the cradle in which the spirit of Volunteer defence has been nurtured; frequently before the 16th century have French and Spaniards made or attempted landings there for pillage or destruction, but in each case they suffered severely from the resolute resistance of the townspeople. In the civil war the inhabitants formed themselves into trained bands and resisted the Royalist siege; in 1745, when Prince Charley, the Young Pretender, landed in Scotland and gained the battle of Prestonpans, Plymouth again raised a body of Volunteers; and in 1759 when France determined on a descent on England and had 18,000 men ready to embark on board the French fleet, Plymouth again raised two companies of Volunteers to strengthen the Militia, one of which undertook to clothe and feed itself. The destruction of the French fleet by Admiral Hawke, at the mouth of Quiberon Bay, and the decisive battle of Minden, where the 20th, or East Devon Regiment, learned its celebrated "Minden Yell," removed for a time the fear of French invasion. When, therefore, in 1779 the combined fleets of France and Spain held for a time the possession of the English Channel, and the gallant Elliot was holding the rock of Gibraltar against famine and bombardment, and most of our army was fighting in America, the Spanish and French fleets suddenly appeared off Plymouth causing great alarm for the safety of the Dockyard and the numerous French prisoners in the port, the inhabitants were again ready to enroll themselves. Mr William Bastard, of Kitley, the great grandfather of the present Mr B. J. B. Bastard, the first Lieutenant Colonel of our existing Volunteer Battalion, offered to raise a force of 500 men as a Corps of Fencibles, and in two days had 1,500 young men to select from who wished for the honour of serving under him. On 23rd August, 1779, he escorted 1,300 war prisoners to Exeter for safety, and on the 25th delivered them to the commanding officer there and at once returned with his regiment to Plymouth. I have been unable to find any traditions of this march preserved in the towns through which they must have passed, but we may be sure

at the time it caused much excitement along the road and at the places they rested the two nights. The whole of this eventful period at Plymouth is well described by Miss Peard in her charming little book "Mother Molly." The example of Plymouth was followed by the citizens of Exeter who also raised a Volunteer Corps. For these services the King, on 24th September, signed a warrant for a baronetcy for Mr Bastard who, however, modestly declined the honour. The supremacy in the channel was soon restored by the return of the fleet, and the victories of Admiral Rodney rendered our shores safe for a time.

In 1794 the effects of the French Revolution had made themselves felt in England, and several elaborate plots were formed to supersede Parliament by a National Convention after the French model, and to abolish the Monarchy. Great distress prevailed in the country which always forms the best weapon of revolutionists. The rate of interest rose to seventeen per cent, the Bank of England only saved itself by the suspension of cash payment. Monge, the French Minister of Marine, threatened to land in England with 50,000 red caps of liberty, and to overthrow the Government of the country. Toulon, which we had assisted to garrison against the Republicans, was evacuated after a gallant defence by 12,000 men of five different nations, over a line of outposts extending 15 miles in circumference, against an army of between thirty and forty thousand men. The Eleventh, now our Devonshire Regiment, formed part of the garrison under Lord Mulgrave, and distinguished itself in several sorties, especially that on 30th November, 1793, when the French were driven from their batteries and guns spiked. In this affair, Napoleon Bonaparte, then an artillery officer, received a bayonet wound in his thigh; thus the first contact the future Emperor made with a British Battalion was with our Devon Regiment; and he did not again come face to face with us until the battle Waterloo, although he is said to have watched some of the battles in the Pyrenees from a distance. It was at this crisis that the Government called on the different counties to take steps for the defence of the Kingdom, and a meeting of Magistrates was called by Lord Fortescue, the Lord Lieutenant, and presided over by the High

Sheriff, J. S. Pode, Esq., on the 22nd April, 1794, when the following suggestions were discussed and adopted:—1—To augment the Militia by Volunteer Companies, as was practised in the last war; and by Volunteers being added as Privates to existing Companies. 2—To form Volunteer Companies in particular towns, especially in those near the coast. 3—To raise Volunteer Troops of Fencible Cavalry—officers to have temporary rank only—arms, accoutrements, and clothing to be supplied by Government. Levy-money to be furnished by persons raising troops, and horses to be paid for at a reasonable price by the Government. Persons raising two troops to have temporary rank of Major, or six troops of Lieutenant-Colonel. 4—Infantry Companies to consist of 71 men, viz.:—1 Captain; 2 Lieutenants; 3 Sergeants; 3 Corporals; 2 Drummers; 60 Privates. 20 men in each company to have firelocks, the remainder to be armed with pikes 8 feet long. Unless called out not to be removed more than five miles from home. In time of invasion only to act in the County. It was resolved “That we are at all times ready to stand forward in a constitutional manner for the defence of the country.” 2—That this is a time of crisis, &c. 3—That a County Committee be formed, and that all subscribers of £20 be members. 4.—That Sub-Committees be formed in different districts, to consist of subscribers of £5. 2nd May, 1794.—Sir Stafford H. Northcott, Sheriff, in the chair. It was reported that subscriptions amounted to:—In the county, £8,300 8s; City of Exeter, £1,239 17s —£9,540 5s. 16th May.—It was stated that the South Coast was most liable to immediate attack. Resolved.—Apply to Government for an engineer to report. Also for guns, carriages, and traces that country horses might move them. That Volunteer Artillery be raised to man guns. Also advisable to raise Volunteer Infantry. The offer of Exmouth to raise a Company be accepted. Cul-lompton be not accepted until it be decided whether any but seaport towns shall raise Volunteers. 30th May.—Reported that Exmouth having raised 60 men nominated James Coldridge, Esq., captain; Nicholas Barnwell, Esq., as Lieutenant. Mr Alderman Kitson reported a roll of seventy men of the City of Exeter, ready to learn military duty on the following terms, viz:—1st, to

nominate their own officers ; 2nd, to be provided with arms and outfits ; 3rd, be paid if marched twenty miles from Exeter, or if called out. These terms appear to have been accepted for Colonel Mackenzie was nominated to command, Benjamin Honyman to be Captain, Alderman Walker Lieutenant, Jonathan Barnet ensign. Major Taylor reported eighty men from Teignmouth. Rev. W. Jenkins reported eighty men from Sidmouth. Sir Bouchier Wrey reported a company from Barnstaple. It being resolved that inland towns be permitted to Volunteer subject to the decision of the War Office, Dr Honeywood reported a Company at Honiton to which Major Winchester was nominated Captain, James Townsend Lieutenant, E. Blagdon ensign. Subscriptions reported to date, county £11 665, city £1,390, total £13,055. It was resolved "That Right Hon. Lord Clifford, as chairman of Internal Defence Committee, preside at the next meeting on 10th June. 10th June, Lord Clifford in the chair, the Committee ratified resolutions of former meetings. Many towns reported ready to raise Companies. Resolved "Not to encourage any situated more than six miles from the sea owing to the scarcity of arms. June 24th, rolls of volunteers offering their services were presented from Plymouth, Tarrington, Bideford, Newton Bushel, Axminster, and Cullompton. Subscriptions, county £12,621, city £1,432, total £14,053. July 8th, standards were ordered for troops of Yeomanry. A Company of Infantry accepted at Kenton August 13th, Mr Cary applied to raise a corps of men, and a battery of artillery at Torquay. It was settled that the following accoutrements were necessary for each man. viz :—One pouch and shoulder belt ; one magazine belt and bayonet frog ; one fire-lock sling ; one brass breast plate (plain). September 3rd, a second Company was accepted from Exeter. October 7th, the Committee ordered an inspection of the Southern Corps by Colonel Mackenzie. November 4th, Colonel Mackenzie reported on his inspection; the men were able to fire volleys and to salute well. 1795.—7th January, returns showed 2 Troops of Cavalry, 23 Companies of Infantry to have been raised and equipped by subscription. March 3rd, the Lord Lieutenant, Earl Fortescue, ordered monthly returns from each Corps 7th

April, 1795, the 12 Corps in the eastern part of the county were formed into a Battalion, under Col. Mackenzie. 2nd June, Colonel Orchard, of Hartland Abbey, reported that he had inspected his own Regiment, viz., Corps at Fremington, Westleigh, Northam, Hartland, and two companies at Bideford. This appears to be the six Western Companies of the North Battalion. 1796.—Returns showed—2 Troops of Cavalry, 22 Companies Infantry, 1,651 men. In this year an attempt was made by the French to land in Bantry Bay, which, however, failed, and the expedition was glad to get back to Brest with the loss of four ships of the line, and 8 frigates. Early in 1797 another expedition, under Tate, appeared in the Bristol Channel, off Ilfracombe, with the intention of burning Bristol. The North Devon Volunteers turned out with great zeal, and were prepared to dispute the landing on their coast. The French, however, turned northward and landed in Wales, where they soon surrendered to a far inferior force of Militia, Yeomanry and Volunteers, commanded by Lord Cawdor, and supported by a reserve of Welsh women in red cloaks. Thus Lord Cawdor and his Volunteers, both men and women, rendered their country the greatest service that has been performed by any Volunteers in modern times. The Pembrokeshire Yeomanry Cavalry wore the word "Fishguard" on their colours and appointments in memory of the event. The muskets taken from the French troops are preserved at Staepole Court the seat of Earl Cawdor, near Pembroke. Mr James Mortimer, Head Master, of the Ashburton Grammar School, and a Haytor Volunteer, remarks that the landing above referred to took place on his grandfather's farm in Pembrokeshire, who was about to be married and had furnished his house; the French took possession and made havoc of everything. The vessels that conveyed the expedition fell into the hands of Admiral Lord Bridport. 25th April. At a meeting of the Defence Committee, the thanks of the County were given to the North Devon Volunteers for their zeal in assembling with so much alacrity on the appearance of the enemy off Ilfracombe. It appears that the Plymouth Volunteers had acted as a body inde-

pendent of the County Committee, in conjunction with the garrison there. In 1794 two companies had been raised and were commanded by Captains John Hawker and Edmund Lockyer, and early in 1797 they were increased to six companies, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Hawker. The tradesmen and most respectable townspeople, however, had left the early companies, and formed a body of their own, called the Plymouth Foot Association, under Major Culme, known as the Plymouth Blues; each company appears to have been made up of persons of the same social status. I am indebted to Lieutenant-Col. Lord Clifford for perusal of papers in his possession relating to the above arming and transactions of Defence Committee.

1798 saw the nation in the most serious crisis of its history. The French Directory having made terms with the European powers were able to turn all their attention to the invasion and conquest of the British Isles. Former expeditions were designed to stir up the disloyal and assist them to overthrow the Government, but now a French army was to land on our shores. The Spanish and Dutch fleets had been pressed into the French service, but British courage and seamanship had effectually disposed of them in the great naval battles of St. Vincent and Camperdown. Nevertheless an army was organized, named The Army of England, and distributed along the French coast in readiness for embarkation. Flat bottomed boats were prepared for landing troops and for service on our rivers. The bankers of Paris were called upon to advance a loan on the security of English property. The greatest calamity, however, was a general mutiny in the channel fleets at the Nore, which expelled their officers, elected their own Admiral and Captains, hoisted the red flag, and blockaded the mouth of the Thames; they seriously discussed the expediency of making the whole over to the French. If England could not depend on her fleet she must fall. Had not prompt measures been taken, and the mutiny quelled, invasion on a large scale would certainly have taken place. To add to these troubles a formidable rebellion broke out in Ireland, and its leaders arranged for the support of the French army, under Hocke, a General of great experience. A brigade of 1,000 men actually

landed in Ireland, under General Humbert, beat the local troops and advanced into the country, but were compelled to surrender to Lord Cornwallis; and Admiral Warren caught a French fleet with 3,000 troops on their way to support them, and only one of the nine ships returned to France. Such being the state of public affairs it cannot be denied that our great-grand-parents had good grounds for alarm. There is hardly a district or family in Devon but has some tradition of that period. Nervous people were afraid to take off their clothes at night. Old gentlemen provided themselves with hollow walking sticks filled with guineas to carry with them in their flight. At Totnes my great-grandfather's family permanently engaged a post chaise in which the women and children might escape to Bristol, the family plate was packed ready to be taken off, and a belt of guineas provided. The school boys enjoyed it most, for there was no school, as the seniors were too much engaged in obtaining and discussing news to attend to them. The saying still exists at Totnes of "Going to Paignton to meet the French," for "meeting trouble half-way." Beacon fires were prepared to spread the news of any landing; a story is told of a tramp at Dawlish, who, in lighting his pipe, set a hay rick on fire; the watchers at the nearest beacon took it for a signal of an invasion and lighted their fires, which were answered in every direction, and the people sprang to arms until "That time of slumber was as bright and busy as the day." One old sailor, however, had his wits about him, when his daughter shook him out of a deep sleep with the news that the French had landed. Rubbing his eyes he told her to go and look at the weathercock. She came back saying the wind was from the north. "I thought so," said he, "and so it was yesterday. The French can't land with this wind." And so the ancient mariner turned round and went to sleep again. It is also related that in Cornwall some ignorant people caught a monkey that had escaped, and hung the animal thinking it a Frenchman. Galt in *The Provost* gives a ludicrous account of a poor Frenchman being apprehended in one of the small towns of the Clyde. The Frenchman knew no English, and the worthy bailee no French. The idea that the prisoner was a spy was so strong that

a search was ordered, and among his things was found a suspicious plan evidently of the Frith of Clyde with the islands all marked. A report was sent to Edinburgh, and the alien spy fetched by an escort. Shortly afterwards tidings came from the Lord Advocate that the supposed spy was only a French cook on his way from Dublin to Glasgow, and his suspicious plan a scheme for the laying of a fashionable dinner table, the islands recognised by the worthy bailee being the places marked for roast beef, plum pudding, and a butter boat. But whatever might have been the panic or terror of some individuals, the national spirit of the people was expressed by Lord Grenville, who declared "The hands of the Government must be strengthened if the country is to be saved! but above all the work must not be left to the hands of the Government, but every man must put his shoulder to it according to his rank and situation in life." England woke up; at a single meeting of bankers and merchants at the Royal Exchange, £46,000 was subscribed for the defence of the country; the King added his name for £20,000, the Queen £5,000, and the Bank of England subscribed £200,000, and soon the National Defence Fund amounted to more than two millions. Hitherto the Volunteering had been on a small scale, but in 1789 it sprang into full development. Parliament passed many acts that session relating to the enrolment of volunteers, and for the guidance of the Lieutenancy of Counties in securing the country from invasion. A manuscript Volume among the County papers at Exeter contains the minutes of the proceedings taken by the Magistracy of Devon to carry out these acts, and I am indebted to Mr A. H. A. Hamilton, who has carefully perused them, for much of the information on this subject I have made use of. I will follow the events as they occur in relation to these County papers. The first general meeting of the Lieutenancy and Magistrates was held at the Castle on 13th April. The Lord Lieutenant (Lord Fortescue) took the chair, and there were 34 other justices present of whom seven were clergymen. The first business was to read a letter from Mr Secretary Dundas (afterwards Viscount Melville) containing proposals "For rendering the body of the people instrumental in the general defence, saving property, and dis-

trekking the enemy by removing the means of subsistence from threatened parts of the country, as also for insuring necessary supplies to His Majesty's forces, and facilitating their movement in case of invasion without making any expensive preparations. 2.—Orders were sent to ministers, churchwardens, and overseers of every parish to furnish complete returns of all men between the ages of 15 and 60, and to distinguish those who by reason of infirmity were incapable of active service, also those acting in existing Volunteer Corps, also all aliens and quakers. 3.—To make return of names of all males under 15 and above 60, and of all females, stating such as, from infancy, age, or infirmity, were incapable of removing themselves in case of danger. 4.—It was ordered that a general open standing Committee of the Lieutenancy and Magistrates, with the General Officers and Commissaries of the District, shall meet twice a week at Exeter and communicate constantly with meetings to be held in every sub-Division of the County. At the next meeting a letter was read from the Lord Lieutenant desiring that all proposals of service should be laid before the Committee and compared with the rules and plans of the Government previous to being transmitted to him. 2.—Proposals were received from certain gentlemen of Exeter for raising two more Companies of Volunteers; and from Plymouth for raising one more, to be under the command of Philip Langmead, Esq. Then at subsequent meetings followed proposals from various quarters offering to raise Troops of Cavalry, and Companies of Infantry. It must be remembered that only towns within six miles of the sea at this time had Volunteers. Among those accepted we find the following:—Plymouth—Independent Rangers under Captain Julian; ditto—Engineers and Artificers. Barnstaple—Troop of Cavalry under R. Newton Incedon, Esq.; ditto—Company of Infantry under Captain Geo. Barbor. Buckland Monachorum—Company of Infantry under Jonathan Elford, Esq. Ashburton—Company of Infantry under Walter Palk, junr., Esq. Kingskerswell—Company of Infantry under Captain Drake. Ipplepen—Company of Infantry under Captain Neagle. Bovey Tracey—Company of Infantry under Captain Crane. Dartmouth—Field Artillery under Henry Studdy, Esq. West Alvington—

Pioneers. Starcross and Exmouth—Seamen offered to serve as bargemen. Exeter—Eight Companies of Infantry under Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Granger; ditto—Several other companies afterwards formed a regiment under Colonel Wright. 26th April, 1798.—Mr Secretary Dundas wrote to the Lord Lieutenant suggesting the arming of all gamekeepers and persons skilful in the use of fowling-pieces, in case of invasion to act as sharpshooters, on the understanding that they would only be called out in case of invasion. Each Parish was required to nominate in vestry assembled, two or more persons not less than sixty years of age, "To whose care and humanity and superintendence might be committed the women, children, and infirmed persons, with full power and authority to provide every necessary for their maintenance and support." Returns were required under heavy penalties of all live and dead stock. 15th May, 1798.—Matters looked still worse, and Lord George Lennox, commanding the Western District, sent Major General Simcoe to point out to the Committee:—1.—The expediency of arranging a plan for driving off all cattle from such part of the county as might be exposed to the inroads of enemy. 2.—Each Parish to appoint overseers of Cattle. 3.—The Magistrates and Overseers of Cattle in each sub-division of the county to fix upon proper places of assembly for the cattle, waggons, carts, and horses of such parishes, fixing the road each parish would use in proceeding to the place of assembly, not being less than twelve miles from sea. 4.—General Simcoe produced a list of County Bridges to be reserved for troops. 5.—He also pointed out that Dartmoor from its position would offer a secure place for the greater part of the county should the enemy land on the coast of the English Channel; and if they landed on the Bristol Channel coast, Exmoor would render equal security. The inhabitants east of the Exe were instructed to retreat into Somersetshire, by making their first day's march to the highlands of Black Down. The next place in the history of Volunteers was the extension of the area of their service. Up to this date the condition of service was confined to the County of Devon, and in the case of the early Exeter Corps to the defence of city only. The military authorities saw the im-

possibility of mobilising the Volunteers, even to a small extent, who had enlisted under these conditions. The County Committee were, therefore, instructed to accept no offers except for service throughout the military district. It was, however, ultimately arranged for all Volunteers to accept the new conditions, but cities or large towns should be allowed to maintain a local corps composed of respectable housekeepers only, to aid the civil power to protect property. Most of the Corps appear to have been willing to extend their services to the Military District. In January, 1799, it was resolved that no further offers should be accepted. Each Parish was required to appoint a man and horse to act as guide. The battle of the Nile and the extinction of the Irish rebellion seem to have quieted mens' minds for a time. But in April Devonshire was again astir, for the Committee of Secrecy of the House of Commons reported that undoubted intelligence had been received that plans of an invasion and insurrection in Ireland were being made in France. That the utmost diligence was being observed in the ports of France in preparing another expedition to co-operate with the rebels in Ireland, that it was intended at the same time to land a French force at different parts of the coast. That the instructions to Tate, who was taken prisoner in Wales, in 1797, and those of General Humbert, who landed in Ireland, and who had been destined to command an expedition against Cornwall, had fallen into the hands of the Government and were as follows:—The legion was to land in Cornwall and to cross the Tamar as quickly as possible, and to establish itself in the district between it and the Exe, or as we should say in the South Hams. The “passes and mountains” (Dartmoor) would afford an easy and safe retreat from the pursuit of the enemy. Thus Dartmoor was selected both by the French Directory and by the English officers for a place of refuge. There indeed in the Dartmoor prisons many French soldiers and sailors were destined to find a safe retreat. The General was particularly enjoined to tell as many falsehoods as possible. He was always to inform the guides he dismissed that he was going by a different road from that he intended to pursue, and enquire the way to towns and villages he had no intention of visiting. In order

to create consternation he was now and then to take possession of some small town or harbour and lay it under contribution. The soldiers were only to carry their arms, ammunition, and bread; for they would everywhere find linen, shoes, and other articles of clothing. They might change horses when required, the gentlemen's seats would serve as magazines. The expedition was to move so swiftly that the English troops would not be able to come up with it, if necessary to fight "then to remember they were Frenchmen and to strike a great blow." By day in the open 1,200 Frenchmen might attack 2,000 English, at night they might attack four or five thousand. From a post not entrenched they ought to dislodge 800, but to avoid it if entrenched and defended by cannon. By night patrols were to fire houses in different quarters to puzzle the enemy. In crossing rivers each soldier must hold fast to the tail of the coat of the man in front with his left hand and carry his musket in his right. The General was to maintain himself in Devonshire, and cut off communication between Dartmouth, Plymouth, and Portsmouth; if compelled to quit the district to force his way into Wales and communicate with Ireland. General Humbert was also instructed to distribute money and drink among the poor to ascribe all their wretchedness to the Government, to help them to revolt and plunder the property of the rich "whom they always regard with an eye of envy." Then follows this curious passage:—"It is, however, necessary to observe, that however regardless the English people are of morality, they are attached to their laws, and respect their magistrates; it will, therefore, be expedient to spare the property belonging to, or in any way connected with, the civil and municipal magistracy." The English labouring people and rabble, who may be induced to espouse the French cause, to be formed into separate Corps under French officers, but not to be mixed with the legion, that no native may be acquainted with the state of our force. Any town or village refusing a supply of provisions to be given up to pillage. The inhabitants to be compelled to act as guides and punished on the spot in case of refusal. Deserters and prisoners to be invited to enlist, if they refuse their hair and eyebrows to be cut off, and if again taken to be shot.

Such were to be the proceedings of the Missionaries of *Liberty, Equality and Fraternity*. But as time went on, and no invasions took place, things became quieter; the Defence Committee seldom met; the Volunteers, however, continued to drill, and to hold reviews.

In 1801 the separate Corps were consolidated into Battalions and Regiments. The two first Devon Troops of Cavalry, with those at Bickton, Tiverton, and Cullompton, united in the "Royal First Devon Yeomanry Cavalry," under Lord Rolle as Colonel, and Sir Stafford Northcott as Lieutenant-Colonel. The North Devon Corps of Infantry became the 3rd North Devon Regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel Fortescue. The Loyal Exminster Hundred Regiment of Volunteers, under Lord Courtenay, was similarly formed. In 1802 came the "Peace of Amiens," or as it is frequently called the "Cloamen Peace." It was a fragile patched up affair by which Bonaparte gained breathing time. "It was a peace everyone was glad of, and nobody proud of." Volunteer affairs became quiet, many corps were disbanded, among them the Ashburton Sergebacks. Old soldiers were discharged from the Line Regiments, and Militia men sent to their homes. In May, 1803, Bonaparte suddenly declared war, and then as Emperor, prepared in earnest to invade England. A camp of 100,000 men was formed on the cliffs at Boulogne, and a host of flat bottom boats gathered for their conveyance across the Channel. At last the Emperor Napoleon appeared in camp, all was ready. "*Let us be masters of the Channel for six hours,*" he is reported to have said, "*and we are masters of the World.*" But he never was able to be master of the Channel for six hours. The army waited and drilled, the old Bayeaux Tapestry, which illustrates the conquest of England by William of Normandy, was searched out, to create enthusiasm, and show what had once been done; all kinds of schemes were resorted to, to obtain the naval assistance of other nations, and with success, for the Spanish fleet joined him; still the English fleet under Lord Nelson, held the Channel, but any accident might give the six hours mastery, and so England had to be prepared. The County Defence Committee again assumed the direction of affairs. The arrangements made in 1798 were once more put

in force. Rates of payment were fixed for all services that might be rendered and supplies furnished. New Acts of Parliament were passed as the old ones expired at the Peace of Amiens. A very strict return of the male population of each parish between the ages of 17 and 55 was required by virtue of the Levy-en-masse Act, under following heads:—1.—Unmarried men between the ages of 17 and 30, or those having no children under 10 years. 2.—All men between 30 and 50 unmarried, or no children under 10. 3.—All men between 17 and 30 who were or had been married and had not more than two children under 10. 4.—All males, not in above classes (clergymen and licenced teachers in Holy Orders exempt), also infirmed persons, Quakers, Medical men, and persons serving in Volunteer Corps. 7th October 1803.—Stock was taken of the old Volunteers who had remained embodied since 1798, and were:—Cavalry, 1,259; Infantry, 3,070—4,829, exclusive of Plymouth. The Government at this time limited the number to 12,000 for county, and 5,000 for Plymouth and its appendages—as follows:—County—Infantry, 9,789; Cavalry, 1,523; Special Rifles, 60; Fencible Artillery, 200; Fencible Cavalry, 100;—11,672. Plymouth Dock, Hundreds of Stanborough, Roborough, Plympton, Ermington, and town of Tavistock—Infantry, 4,800; Cavalry, 191;—4,991.—Grand Total—16,663. It must be remembered that at the same time the County was giving a large number of men to the army, navy, and militia. The population of the County was 343,000, so that one-in-twenty was a Volunteer. It was in 1803 that the HAYTOR REGIMENT was formed, and commanded by Lord Seymour; it was 1,000 strong, with 250 Artillery attached, and appears to have been made up of all the Volunteers in the Haytor Hundred with those of several towns and parishes adjoining. Newton Abbot was the headquarters, where Captain Babb, afterwards Lieutenant-Colonel Babb, was Captain. In the former arming of 1798 Ashburton had formed the 9th Devon Corps, under Captain Walter Palk; they had clothed themselves with local made serge, and so gained the name of Serge-backs; they were disbanded at the Peace of Amiens, but now again formed and became a company in the Haytor Regiment, under Captain Tozer, no connexion of the present Captain Tozer.

Bridgetown, being in Berry Pomeroy parish, also was in the Haytor district. Mr Milford Windeatt, a cousin of the present Captain Windeatt, held a commission in the Haytor Corps; some of his uniform is in my possession, viz, his cocked hat and scarlet coat. Totnes, however, formed a separate corps, being in the Stanborough Hundred, as did also Highweek, Kingsteignton, Chudleigh, and Bovey Tracey, which were in Teignbridge. The Stanborough Regiment, in which Kingsbridge formed a part, was connected with Plymouth. Torquay, Paignton, and Brixham supplied artillery men under Colonel Cary, of Tor Abbey. For the protection of Tor Bay the authorities garrisoned Berry Head, which, being in the Haytor Hundred, was committed to a detachment of the Regiment under Colonel Cary. Many stories remain of this period of service. I cannot say how long the Volunteers were out; probably they relieved each other. One story frequently told was of the French fire-ships for which they were on the look-out, to be sent among the fleet in the bay, and which caused much stir. One night as the full moon rose red and fiery out of the sea the sentry at the headland, who had come from an inland parish, mistook it for a fire ship, discharged his musket, and aroused the garrison. The uniform was similar to the line regiments of the period, viz., scarlet swallow tailed coats, turned out with yellow, blue black breeches, white cross belts, with a brass plate having Haytor Regiment thereon; the pouches were black, the buttons had H.V.R.—Haytor Volunteer Regiment, officers wore cocked hats, others tall shacoos. (A man dressed in the old uniform as an officer here came before the audience). Sergeant-Major W. Husson had been in the Militia, but was discharged in 1802 at Peace of Amiens. He joined the Ashburton Company, having settled there, and was made Sergeant Major; the officers presented him with a silk sash, which with his breastplate is now in the possession of his son, Mr Samuel Husson, the head master of the Board School. The Regiment assembled for field-days and drill at various points in the district. Lord Clifford has a plan of a sham-fight on Bovey-heathfield, but the movements appear to have been very simple. Lieutenant-Colonel Babb, whose tablet is in Wolborough Church, Newton Abbot,

commanded the Regiment at one time. On 21st October, 1805, Lord Nelson caught the combined French and Spanish fleets off Cape Trafalgar. His last and famous signal, "England expects every man to do his duty," was observed and obeyed, and although he fell in the hour of victory, 20 battle ships had struck their flags ere the day was done. Pitt exclaimed, in his last public words, "England has saved herself by her courage; she will save Europe by her example." The crisis had again passed, England could breathe freely once more, still the Volunteers were kept enrolled for a time; and the Haytors were disbanded about 1809, and the old colours laid up in Wolborough Church until time had consumed them. The times of peace continued for about 40 years, until the Crimean war, in 1853, left the country almost without troops to garrison her arsenals. Then several Volunteer Corps were raised, among them the "Exeter and South Devon," under Colonel Sir Edmund Prideaux. At the peace in 1856 it was not disbanded, but remained embodied until the memorable circular of 12th May, 1859, in which the Secretary of State for War suggested the formation of Volunteer corps throughout the country as a means of preventing the frequent war scares caused by the uncertain actions of the French under Napoleon III. The Exeter Corps then became the first in the Kingdom, and through them Devonshire stands at the top in the precedence of the counties. On 24th May, 1859, the Plymouth Corps was formed, but the date of its acceptance was later on. The movement had life because it was in accordance with the feelings of the people, which was shown by almost every town in Devon holding meetings for the purpose of forming corps, and persons of every social position offered their services, and in a large proportion undertook their own outfits. These offers were mostly accepted by Her Majesty, each corps became an independent body, and was numbered in the order in which they were accepted. The Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Corps was accepted on the 25th February, 1860, as the 9th Devon R.V., curiously the same number as the old Sergebacks of 1798, and so became the senior corps of the district but immediately followed by Newton Abbot, as 10th Devon R.V.; then came Totnes, 17th; Chudleigh, 23rd; Kingsbridge, 26th. In

the summer of 1860 all the corps of Devon, except the Exeter and South Devon, which was a Battalion in itself were linked into administrative Battalions, under Lieutenant Colonels appointed by the Lord Lieutenant (Lord Fortescue, the son of the Lord Lieutenant of 1798); and Mr B. J. P. Bastard, of Kitley and Buckland Court, Ashburton, the great-grandson of Mr W. Bastard, who acted with such energy at Plymouth, in 1779, became Lieutenant-Colonel of the 4th Administrative Battalion, with Captain F. B. Bewes, who had raised and commanded the Plymouth Corps, as Adjutant. The Head quarters were at Totnes, and the Battalion consisted of the following corps:—9th Ashburton and Buckfastleigh—Captain T. E. Rogers, Lieutenant R. C. Tucker, Ensign W. R. Coulton, Surgeon W. S. Gervis, M.D.; 10th Newton Abbot—Major H. S. Yates, Lieutenant R. M. Baker, Ensign Croft; 17th Totnes—Captain W. Ruston, Lieutenant R. H. Watson, Ensign F. Kellock; 23rd Chudleigh—Lieutenant G. F. Ferreisa, Ensign Langley; 26th Kingsbridge—Lieutenant J. H. Square, Ensign J. Elliott; Yealmpton—Captain Young, Lieutenant Conran; Modbury—Captain Bulteel, Lieutenant T. King, Ensign Pearse. Each corps selected its own uniform, no two were alike, and with the exception of Kingsbridge, which was dark green, all were grey, ut of different colours and shades. The Yealmpton and Modbury soon became the Light Horse, and were separated from the Battalion. About 1865 the whole Battalion was clothed alike in slate Grey with scarlet facings, and black, belts. Colonel Bastard soon resigned through ill-health, and the Battalion being very small Major Adair was appointed with Head Quarters at Newton Abbot; he was followed by Major Cox, who shortly left the county, and Mr G. J. Templar, of Lindridge, assumed the command, as Major. In 1868 a Company was raised at South Brent, and numbered 28th Devon, under Captain Westhead, Lieutenant Preston, and Ensign J. Carew. This addition raised Major Templar to Lieutenant-Colonel, and in 1873, owing to increase of numbers, a Major was added to the staff, and Captain R. C. Tucker appointed; he, however, continued to retain the command of his company. The Battalion

sent two Companies, drawn from men in different corps, to the Autumn manœuvres on Dartmoor, under Major Tucker and Captain Bewes, where much experience was gained in camping and military matters to the great benefit of the Battalion. In 1874 the uniform was again changed to Scarlet with Lincoln green facings, in order to correspond with the 11th North Devon Regiment, which was then recognised as the Territorial Regiment. In 1880 the Corps of the Battalion were consolidated into a single corps after the manner of the Haytor Regiment in 1803. By an order from the Secretary of State for War dated 11th March, 1880, Administrative Battalions were ordered to take the number of their senior corps, all other corps were to cease to be separate bodies and to become lettered companies of the new Consolidated Corps. Thus in the 4th Administrative Battalion the 10th, 17th, 23rd, and 26th, became B., C., D., and E. Companies of the 9th Devon Volunteer corps, with Head Quarters at Newton Abbot. The officers serving in the old Corps were to retain their rank in the new, as well as the Staff, the Battalion to consist of six companies of 100 men each. That year saw a company raised at Torquay, which had previously been attached to the Exeter and South Devon; this completed the establishment. The Staff, therefore, was as follows:—Lieutenant-Colonel J. G. Templar, Major Hon. L. H. Clifford, (grandson of the chairman of County Defence Committee in 1794), Adjutant Captain J. D. Bewes, Quarter-master J. Blackler; Surgeon H. Gaye, M.D.; Chaplain Rev W. Watkins; Sergeant-Major J. Stupart. Major Tucker had resigned his commission in 1877 much regretted by the different corps. Lieutenant-Colonel Templar and Captain and Adjutant Bewes also retired in 1881, when Major Lord Clifford became Lieutenant-Colonel, and Captain J. A. Watson was promoted from the D, or Chudleigh Company, to be Major. In 1885 the Government at last recognised the Volunteers as a permanent contingent of the national forces, and incorporated them as Volunteer Battalions in the County Regiment; and in order to retain a distinctive individuality Lord Clifford applied to be permitted to be styled the “Haytor Battalion” the name of the old Regiment of the district in 1803-9. This permission was granted by Her

Majesty in an order dated 23rd September, 1885, and the Corps from that date became known as 5TH (THE HAYTOR) VOLUNTEER BATTALION DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT. On 16th March, 1886, permission was obtained to extend the establishment to eight companies, by making Buckfastleigh a separate Company, under Captain Coham-Fleming, and raising a second at Torquay and Paignton. By this order another Major was added to the staff, and Captain P. F. S. Amery was promoted to it, with the honorary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, having served in the corps upwards of 26 years. At that date there were serving in the corps the following who joined at its first raising in 1859 and 1860:—Major Amery, Quartermaster J. Blackler, Colour-Sergeant Rowland, Sergeant Vavasor, Sergeant Stitson, Sergeant Underhay, Sergeant Stephens, Private Brown. The Devonshire Regiment, of which the Haytors now form a Battalion, was raised so far back as 1685; has seen a vast amount of service, and has ever served with distinction before the enemy in the two centuries of its history. During the rebellion of the Duke of Monmouth, in 1685, many new corps were raised, and among them a regiment of musketeers and pikemen by the Duke of Beaufort. It was composed of loyal men of Devon, Somersetshire, and Dorset, and was known as "The Duke of Beaufort's Musketeers." In the same year, after the rebellion had been crushed at Sedgemoor, the Duke resigned the colonelcy to his son, the Marquis of Worcester. At that time regiments were named after their Colonels. The corps was distinguished by tawny coloured ribbons in their hats, scarlet coats, lined with tawny coloured shalloon, tawny coloured breeches, stockings and sashes. Lord Worcester was succeeded in 1687 by Lord Montgomery, who was devoted to the interests of James II. In 1688 the regiment was in garrison at Hull, when the Prince of Orange landed at Torbay. The Governor of Hull was also a supporter of James. The regiment, however, led by its Lieutenant-Colonel, Sir John Hanmer, declared with the inhabitants of Hull for the Prince of Orange and the Protestant party. Sir John Hanmer was made Colonel, and in 1689 took part with his regiment in the famous relief of Londonderry. 1690 it served under the eye of William III at the Battle of the Boyne, where it

repulsed three cavalry charges and materially assisted to secure the Protestant succession. In 1707, under Colonel Hill, it was present at the terrible battle of Almanza, in Portugal, where after performing deeds of valour it was overpowered and cut to pieces. Twenty six officers and nearly all the men were killed, wounded, or taken. In 1709 it served under Malborough in the Netherlands, took part in the siege of Mons, where it greatly distinguished itself in repulsing a sortie, in which 10 officers and 150 men were lost. In 1715, under Colonel Montague, it took part against the rebellion under the Earl of Mar in Scotland, and at the battle of Dunblain lost eight officers and 108 men. 1738.—Colonel Cornwallis was appointed, and as Cornwallis' regiment took part in the war of Austrian succession; it was present at the battle of Dettingen, in 1743, where George II, in person commanded the army, and received a French cavalry charge in line; Cornwallis' and another battalion executed a difficult manœuvre, which brought the enemy's cavalry under fire. The name of Dettingen is borne on the colours. In 1745 at Fontenoy it again broke through the French lines and almost secured victory; its losses were seven officers and 212 men. It was re-called to England during the Pretender's rebellion in Scotland, and sent again into the Low Countries in 1746, where, as Graham's regiment, it took a prominent and honourable part in the desperate battle of Roucoux against the renowned Marshall Saxe, where it lost 12 officers and 206 men.

1st July, 1751.—A royal warrant was issued regulating the clothing and colours of every regiment. It was now numbered as XI Regiment of Foot, and the "facings spoken of as being green," but when they were changed from tawny is not known. The drummers were clothed in green, faced with red. 1756—The strength was increased to 20 Companies, which were divided into two Battalions. 1758—The Second Battalion was constituted the 64th Regiment illustrating the birth of new regiments. The XIth took part in the Seven Years War 1760 to 1763, under the Prince of Brunswick. In 1782, County Titles were given to Regiments in order to facilitate recruiting, and the eleventh was designated the "North Devon

Regiment," and the officers were enjoined to cultivate an intercourse with that part of the County, so as to create a mutual attachment between the inhabitants and the regiment. Exactly a century afterwards similar orders and changes took place for a like purpose. In 1793, when England was threatened with invasion by the French Republic, and Volunteers were being drilled, the XIth was defending Toulon against Napoleon as mentioned before. In 1798, it was sent to Ostend on a very hazardous expedition to cut the Great Canal; it did its work, but was unable to re-embark owing to a storm, and 24 officers and 456 men were captured. In 1800 the XIth was sent to the West Indies, took part in the capture of St. Bartholomew, St. Martin's, St. Thomas, St. John, and Santa Cruz; in 1807 to Madeira. In 1808, a second Battalion was again added, which formed a part of the Walcheren expedition, under the Duke of York in 1809. At the taking of Flushing, the XIth took a set of brass drums from the 11th French Regiment, and enlisted the musicians of a Prussian band serving in the French army, when all the men joined with their instruments. In 1810 and 1811, they took part in the Peninsula War. On 22nd July, 1812, the Regiment won glory at the decisive battle of Salamanca, which led to the French being driven out of Spain. The 11th, 53rd, and 61st Regiments formed a Brigade in the Sixth Division, commanded by Major General Lord Clinton, uncle of the present Lord Lieutenant of Devon. Lord Wellington had noticed that in manœuvring his troops, the French Marshal had so extended his forces as to be unable to support each other. To take advantage of this mistake, the XIth as leading its Brigade, was pushed forward under a heavy fire, and was soon engaged in a desperate struggle and drove the French from their ground. At the close of the action a French division made a very determined stand to cover the retreat. The Sixth British Division again attacked, led by the XIth, and as the darkness came on overpowered the French who fled in confusion. They lost 16 officers, 325 men, only four officers and 67 men came out unwounded. The XIth captured a battery of guns and a green standard without an eagle. The 122nd French regiment, which was

opposed to the XIth with two Battalions, numbering 2,200 strong, the next day only mustered 200 men; they were mostly taken prisoners. Lord Clinton was despatched with the news direct from the field and carried with him the green standard. He landed at Plymouth, and in a chaise and four rattled up the road to London. As he passed through the towns on the way he exhibited the standard, and persons now living in Ashburton remember seeing him pass through; he was at that time Lord of the Borough of Ashburton. The XIth earned the nickname of "The Bloody Eleventh" from the part it had taken in that terrible day. It suffered severely in the battles in the Pyrenees, and following movements which resulted in driving the French across the frontier. It was not present at Waterloo, and in 1816 the Second Battalion was disbanded at Gibraltar, the men being incorporated in the First Battalion. In 1825, new colours were presented to the regiment whilst at Cork, on which were added the names of the Peninsula battles. During the years of Peace it moved from station to station, and was not in the Crimea. During the Indian Mutiny a Second Battalion was again raised, but did not take part. 1879—1880, the XIth took part in the Afghan War. 1881—the Regiment ceased to be the XIth and became the "Devonshire Regiment", but the green facings were changed to white, in common with other Line Regiments, and are alone borne by the junior Battalion, viz. the Haytors. The Devonshire Territorial Regiment therefore consists of two Line Battalions for Foreign Service, two Militia Battalions, five Volunteer Battalions, of which the 1st and 2nd are Rifles, total nine.

What conclusion ought we to arrive at, after the due consideration of the history of the means of defence during the last century, which I have endeavoured to lay before you this evening. The first duty I believe is, as far as possible, to prepare during peace and at leisure for any sudden emergency, without draining the resources of our country by enormous armaments like our Continental neighbours. This can be done with little public expense. 1st, by all able bodied intelligent young men taking advantage of the organization of local Volunteer Corps

to learn the art of rifle shooting with a few military movements. 2nd, by those who have the desire and can devote more time, becoming as proficient as possible in military tactics and organization. 3rd, by all loyal people lending their countenance and moral support to the movement. The Haytor Volunteers of to-day have not been hurriedly brought together by external fear of invasion, as was the case a century ago, but by the desire to be ready in this generation to defend our shores, as their fathers were prepared to do in their day :—

“The brave old men of Devonshire !
 ’Tis worth the world to stand,
 As Devon’s sons on Devon’s soil,
 Though juniors of the band ;
 And tell Old England to her face,
 If she is great in fame,
 ’Twas good old hearts of Devon oak
 That made her glorious name.”

Upon the motion of the Mayor of Totnes (Mr J. E. L. Lloyd), seconded by the ex-Mayor (Mr H. Symons), a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Lieutenant Colonel Amery for his entertaining lecture.





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Amery, P F S
The Haytor volunteers

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